

STANHOPE

Urban Sanitary District.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1910

STANHOPE :

J. HENDERSON, AGENT, PRINTER.

1911.



# To the Stanhope Urban District Council.



GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1910.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

|                            | Estimated Population. | Birth Rate. | Death Rate | Zymotic Rate. | Infantile Mortality Rate. | Phthisis Death Rate. | Respiratory Diseases Death Rate. |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1910                       | 2015                  | 19.35       | 12.40      | .24           | 205                       | .99                  | 1.48                             |
| Averages for 1900-1909     | 1985                  | 23.6        | 14.8       | 1.3           | 74                        | 1.7                  | 2.3                              |
| County Rates for 1910      |                       | 34.4        | 15.1       | 1.62          | 126                       | 0.88                 | 2.42                             |
| Rate for England and Wales |                       | 24.8        | 13.4       | .99           | 106                       |                      |                                  |

There were registered during the year the deaths of 33 persons, 19 males and 14 females. Of this total eight died who did not belong to the district—one from Darlington, one from Gateshead (who died in the Sanatorium), and 6 in the Wear-dale Union Workhouse, from Frosterley (1), Wolsingham (3), St. John's Chapel (1), and West Auckland (1). This leaves a total of 25 deaths of persons belonging to the District, a rate of 12.40 per 1000 on an estimated population of 2015.

**Infectious Disease** caused one death.

**Infantile Mortality.**—Eight deaths were registered under one year: one from Whooping-Cough, two from Pneumonia, one from Meningitis, three owing to debility from birth (triplets), and one from an accident, giving a per centage of 20.5 or 205.1 per 1000 births.

**Phthisis Pulmonalis** caused two deaths, a rate of .99 per 1000.

**Acute Respiratory Diseases** caused three deaths, a rate of 1.48 per 1000.

**Births.**—During the year 39 births were registered—three of them illegitimate. There were 23 males and 16 females, equal to a Birth Rate of 19.35.

Tables I, II, III, IV, V, are attached.

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### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 28 cases have been notified: 3 of Enteric, 22 of Scarlet Fever, and 3 of Erysipelas.

**Enteric Fever** :—The first case notified on March 8th was traceable to Infected Clothing of a previous case, whilst the second and third cases occurred in a house with defective sanitary arrangements. Every precaution was taken by disinfection of the stools and otherwise, to prevent further spread of the disease.

**Scarlet Fever**.—The first case was notified on June 19th, and the whole 22 cases were notified chiefly during June and July. The disease was not of a severe type, and no deaths occurred.

**Diarrhoea** was very prevalent in February, but no deaths were attributable to it.

**Measles**.—A few cases occurred in April, without complications.

**Whooping-Cough** became epidemic in December, and one death occurred.

**Tubercular Disease** of the Lungs caused two deaths, one in a person aged 66. No cases have been notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908.

**Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.**—An efficient system of House Inspection is being formulated under this Act.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

**House Accommodation** is not so good as it might be. Many of the houses are small, and overcrowding occurs to a certain extent, but the houses are invariably clean and as a rule ventilation is well carried out by windows, which are kept open in many cases day and night throughout summer and winter. Supervision of the erection of new dwelling houses is undertaken by the Inspector, and no new building is allowed to be occupied until inspected by him along with the Medical Officer of Health. No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

**Water Supply**.—The supply continues plentiful and of good quality. New Metal Covers are required for the receiving Chambers on the moors, as the present wooden covers are far from being satisfactory.

**Milk Supply** is provided by small farmers in the District and from one larger farm outside the District. The quality is as a rule good. The cow byres are clean and generally well kept, and every attention to cleanliness is given by the vendors. There is no Veterinary Inspection of cows, none of the animals having been tested with Tuberculin.

**Other Foods**.—There are no special arrangements as to the Inspection of Foods. As regards Butcher Meat this is inspected occasionally both by me and by your Inspector, and is always found to be of the best quality, nothing but the finest quality of animals being slaughtered in the District. There are five Slaughter-houses, and there has been no nuisance in connection with them. No carcases have been condemned for Tuberculosis.

**Sewerage**.—The new Sewage Disposal Works are nearing completion, and the different parts of the District are in process of being connected up. Seeing that we are about to have a Sewage System capable of effectually draining the whole District, I would strongly recommend that Water Closets

be provided for all new dwelling-houses, as there can be little doubt that, from a Public Health point of view, the Water Carriage System is the cleanest, most rapid, most convenient, and cheapest method of Sewage Disposal.

**Public Scavenging.**—This continues to be thoroughly well carried out although the same difficulties occur with regard to certain yards which have been previously reported on.

**Schools.**—The two Elementary Schools in the District have been inspected and everything found in order. The sanitary arrangements at the Barrington School have been very materially improved during the year by the provision of additional W. C. accommodation and the installation of an automatic flushing apparatus for the Urinal. The Medical Inspection of School Children is of course undertaken through the County Medical Officer of Health.

**Disinfection** in all cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases as well as after deaths from Tubercular Disease is undertaken by your Authority, and is thoroughly done under the immediate supervision of your Inspector.

**Methods of Control of Tuberculosis.**—No system of notification either voluntary or compulsory is in vogue for cases of Tuberculosis of the Lung. No special action is taken in known cases, but disinfection after death is thoroughly performed by your Inspector. There is no hospital accommodation available for advanced cases, although the isolation of such would be of the greatest benefit in stamping out the disease, and no doubt will be the method in the future where most good will follow from a preventive point of view. Earlier cases have been treated successfully in the Durham County Sanatorium in the District.

**New Houses.** Two new houses have been erected during the year and certificates granted for habitation.

**Inspections and Results.**—The general sanitary state of the District has been found to be good as a result of inspections both by myself and in company with Mr. Ridley, your Inspector. He has served 32 formal and informal notices during the year, all of which have received attention.

**Sanitary Improvements.**—Eight old Ash Closets have been converted into W. C.'s; two old Ash Closets have been converted into properly constructed Earth Closets; nine new Sanitary Drains have been substituted for old House Drains.

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### **SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.**

- 1.—Some means of Isolating cases of Infectious Disease.
- 2.—Improved access to certain back premises to facilitate Public Scavenging.
- 3.—Notification of Tubercular Disease of the Lungs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

**JNO. GRAY.**

March, 1911.

